



Mobile Phone Policy (Updated following 2026 DfE Guidance)

Head Teacher: Mrs A Keane

Date Implemented: April 2026

Date of Review: April 2027

Prestolee
Primary School - Aiming High

1. Introduction

The Department for Education updated its guidance on 19 January 2026, stating that all schools should operate as mobile phone free environments throughout the entire school day, including lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime, unless there are specific exceptions identified by the school.

This policy outlines how our school implements these expectations to ensure a calm, safe and focused learning environment for all pupils.

2. Aims of the Policy

- To minimise distractions and maximise learning time.
- To keep pupils safe by reducing opportunities for online bullying, inappropriate content sharing and misuse of digital devices (risks highlighted in national guidance).
- To set clear expectations for pupils, staff and parents.
- To ensure our approach aligns fully with strengthened DfE expectations for phone free schools.

3. Pupil Use of Mobile Phones

3.1 Bringing Mobile Phones to School

- Only pupils who walk to and from school without an adult may bring a mobile phone for safety.
- Phones must be switched off before entering the school grounds.
- On arrival, phones must be handed into the main office before going round to the school playground.
- Phones should then be collected from the main office at the end of the school day.

3.2 Mobile Phones on Site

- Pupils must not have phones seen, used or heard anywhere in school during the school day, in line with DfE expectations for phone free environments.
- Pupils are not permitted to take phones into any other area of the school.

3.3 School Trips and After School Clubs

- Mobile phones are not permitted on school trips.
- For after school clubs, phones must remain switched off until the child has left the school building.

3.4 Smartwatches

- Pupils are not allowed to wear smartwatches, as these are considered smart devices with similar capabilities to mobile phones under the DfE guidance.

3.5 Confiscation

- Any phone found that has not been handed in will be confiscated immediately.
- Parents/carers will be asked to collect the phone from the school office.

3.6 Safeguarding Concerns

- If staff suspect a phone contains unsuitable or unsafe material, parents/carers will be asked to collect it from a senior leader.
- Where material may provide evidence of a criminal offence, the phone will be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher for further investigation.

4. Sanctions for Inappropriate Use

- Using a phone to take photographs, videos, or recordings of pupils or staff is considered a serious incident and will result in consequences in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- The school may withdraw the privilege of bringing a phone to school if misuse occurs.
- Certain behaviours constitute criminal conduct, for example:
 - sexting (sharing nude or semi-nude images)
 - upskirting
 - threats of violence
 - abusive communication targeting protected characteristics

In such cases, the school will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

5. Parent/Carer Mobile Phone Use on the School Site

To support our phone free environment and model the expectations we set for pupils:

5.1 Use of Mobile Phones on School Grounds

- Parents must not use mobile phones on the school site, including during drop off, pick up and any time inside the building.
- This supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and reinforces consistent expectations.

5.2 Photos and Videos at School Performances

- We strongly advise parents not to record or photograph school performances or assemblies while they are taking place.
- This is for safeguarding reasons, as some pupils cannot be photographed and filming can inadvertently capture other children. At the end of each performance, parents will be given an opportunity to take photos of their own child only. Staff will clearly indicate when photography is permitted.

5.4 Modelling Behaviour

- Parents/carers play a vital role in helping children learn safe, responsible digital habits.
- Following these expectations helps model the same behaviour we require from pupils and staff.

6. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

The DfE states that staff should model the school's phone free culture by avoiding personal mobile phone use in front of pupils.

Staff must therefore:

- Keep personal phones silent and out of sight during the school day.
- Not use personal phones in classrooms, corridors or playgrounds.
- Only use mobile phones in designated staff areas (e.g. staff room).
- Never use personal phones to communicate with pupils or support teaching activities.

7. Contact During the School Day

- If parents need to contact their child, they must telephone the school office.
- Pupils must not contact parents via mobile phones during the school day.

8. Liability

Phones are brought to school at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or theft.

9. Communication and Review

In line with DfE expectations that policies are clear and consistently communicated to staff, pupils and parents:

- This policy is shared with all families and staff and uploaded onto the school website.
- Key expectations are reinforced regularly.
- The policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if national guidance changes.

